ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

One embodiment of the present invention is directed to a graphics system comprising logic for generating a mask that identifies bits within a plurality of bits that are not to be impacted by a subsequent computation. The graphics system further comprises compression logic that is responsive to the mask for generating a compressed bit stream, such that the bits that are not to be impacted by the computation are not included in the compressed bit stream. Another embodiment of the present invention is directed to a graphics system comprising logic for generating a mask identifying positions within a plurality of positions of a bit stream that are to be removed during a compression operation. The graphic system further comprises logic responsive to the mask for generating a compressed bit stream, such that the positions that are to be removed are removed by variably shifting contents of successive positions by an appropriate amount, so as to overwrite contents of the positions that are to be removed (or previously shifted).